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SUBJECT: ADDIS ABABA EAC REVIEWS SECURITY SITUATION AFTER ETHIOPIAN
MILITARY ACTION IN SOMALIA

¶1. (U) On December 26, the Emergency Action Committee (EAC) met to review the general security situation in Ethiopia as well as post's general security posture. The following offices were represented at the EAC: Charge, A/DCM, PE, DATT, USAID, USAU, CONS, RMO, ORA, CDC, MGT, GSO, A/PAO, MSG and RSO.

¶2. (SBU) The EAC discussed the following issues:

-- The ongoing situation between Ethiopia and Somalia;

-- Related security concerns, including the general security situation within Addis Ababa and the rest of Ethiopia.

¶3. (U) Between December 24-26, the Government of Ethiopia (GOE) publicly acknowledged (septel) sustained military operations in Somalia against extreme elements of the Council of Islamic Courts (CIC).

¶4. (SBU) The general consensus of the EAC was that it was too early to determine possible fallout/impact of these events as it pertains to the general security situation within Addis Ababa and the rest of Ethiopia. Based on a review of relevant tripwires, and the lack of any security incidents associated with the GOE's recent announcement, the EAC decided against issuing a general travel warning advising against travel to Ethiopia. The current situation in Addis Ababa remains normal and permissive.

¶5. (SBU) The EAC approved the preparation of a general warden message for approval by the Department, advising the public of Ethiopian military operations along the border and in Somalia, and repeating cautionary information from the Consular Information Sheet.

¶6. (SBU) The RSO will carefully examine our already strong security posture, and make any necessary adjustments accordingly. In the coming days, we hope to begin work on extensive physical security improvements to the highly visible and accessed gate to the Embassy compound.

¶7. (SBU) The EAC agreed to meet and review the security situation again before the New Year holiday as necessary. Developments will be reported accordingly.

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